

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking at least one object in a scene, comprising:
detecting, by means of an image detector, a sequence of images of the scene;
determining a movement of at least one object in the scene based on the sequence of images;
starting a counter when the movement of the at least one object comes to a standstill;
enabling counting of the counter only if the at least one object continues to be in the standstill; and
generating a signal when a counter value of the counter reaches a predetermined threshold value.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 10, wherein the signal triggers at least one of an audio alarm and visual alarm.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 10, further comprising:
generating a list describing the movement of the at least one object with respect to the direction of movement and the time.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising: ~~wherein the list is newly initialized after the beginning of a movement of the at least one object~~
detecting a new movement of the at least one object after coming to the standstill;
responsive to the detecting, determining that at least one list entry is needed to
continue tracking the movement of the at least one object; and
re-initializing the list while carrying over the at least one entry to the re-initialized list.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising:
generating a reference image, wherein the reference image is used to identify the at least one object in the scene.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein, after identifying the position of the at least one object, the reference image is adapted onto remaining areas of the scene from at least one preceding image.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising: wherein a time interval of at least half a second is provided between images

selecting a length of a time interval between the sequence of images, the length being sufficiently long enough to capture a meaningful amount of object movement between images.

17. (Currently Amended) A video monitoring system for tracking at least one object in a scene, comprising:

at least one image detector for detecting a sequence of images of the scene;

a processor connected to the image detector for determining a movement of at least one object in the scene based on the sequence of images, wherein the processor starts a time count when the movement of the at least one object comes to a standstill, the time count continuing only if the object continues to be in the standstill; and

an output arrangement connected to the processor for generating a signal when the time count value reaches a predetermined threshold value.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the processor generates a list describing the movement of the at least one object with respect to the direction of movement and the time.

19. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the processor is configured to: list is newly initialized after the beginning of a movement of the at least one object

determine that at least one list entry is needed to continue tracking the movement of the at least one object; and

re-initialize the list while carrying over the at least one entry to the re-initialized list.

20. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein a reference image is generated, the reference image being used to identify the at least one object in the scene.